

## **Minutes**

**Asheville City Council - Public Safety Committee**  
**December 11, 2007 – 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**  
**Fourth Floor Municipal Building Training Room**  
*“Operationally Aware – Policy Focused”*

**Present:** Council Members: Jan Davis, Chair; Mayor Terry Bellamy  
Staff: Jeff Richardson, William Hogan, Greg Grayson, Scott Burnette,  
Gary Cornett

- **Approval of November Minutes**
  - The committee by consensus approved the November meeting minutes.
- **Police Oversight**
  - It was stated that the State Bureau of Investigation is involved in any police shootings and this agency reports to the District Attorney. The District Attorney has a great deal of authority in making recommendations and taking disciplinary actions if needed.
  - The Federal Bureau of Investigation may also become involved if necessary.
  - A suggestion was made to publicize police oversight activities, either on the City website, in the newspaper, or through mailings.
  - The Committee would like a succinct presentation from Chief Hogan.
  - It was pointed out that the Civil Service Board is also available for citizen concerns.
  - Software to track citizen complaints is being implemented and software to track location of crimes is in beta testing.
  - The Police Advisory Board's role was discussed with consensus on bringing the board's scope and function before the Boards and Commissions Committee.
- **DSU Patrol/Housing Authority Monthly Report**
  - There has been a small decline in drug arrests.
  - Policy is to evict drug offenders from public housing upon conviction, but Pisgah Legal Services often defends the offenders against eviction.
  - Drug activity is moving outside the city limits due to police drug suppression activities.
  - In Washington, D.C., the Police Chief has a policy of “all hands on deck” wherein officers work 8-hour shifts from Friday through Monday with a concentration on high-crime areas. It was suggested that this approach might be appropriate for Asheville. This policy is used selectively throughout the year.
  - It was suggested that these monthly reports be publicized to citizens.

- **Civic Center Concert Action Plan**
  - The Civic Center is satisfied with police coverage during events.
  - The Committee compliments the police department's efforts.
- **Gun Buy-Back**
  - 193 guns were purchased for \$10,000.
  - These guns will be tracked and audited as is all police property.
  - A fund-raising event is being planned for December 17, 2007.
  - It was suggested that another buy-back be scheduled for the period of time right before school ends.
  - It was suggested that the results of gun buy-backs be published.
- **Gang Activity and Culturally-Supported Misbehavior**
  - There will be an information session sponsored by local ministers December 15, 2007 at 1:00 pm.
  - An Explorer group led by Captain Tim Splain met December 10, 2007.
  - Two gang detectives will begin work January 1, 2008.
  - It was suggested that the Police Department should communicate their activities to the public.
- **Other Business**
  - Emergency Management Director Jerry Vebaun will plan to speak at next month's PSC meeting concerning state legislators' PSAP allocation requirements.
  - The Fire and Rescue Department would like the opportunity to brief the PSC on the regional public safety training facility as well as a possible grant opportunity.
- **Public Comment**
  - No public comment.
- **Meeting Adjournment**
  - The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.
- **Next Meeting**
  - Tuesday, January 8, 2008 – 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm in the Municipal Building 4<sup>th</sup> floor training room.

- **Tentative Agenda for Tuesday, January 8, 2008**
  - The committee asked that the following items be placed on next month's agenda:
    - Approval of December Committee Minutes
    - State Legislators' PSAP Allocation Requirements – Jerry Vebaun
    - Regional Public Safety Training Facility and grant opportunities
    - Police Oversight
    - DSU/Patrol/Housing Authority Monthly Report (recurring monthly agenda item)
    - Civic Center Concert Action Plan
    - Gun Buy-Back
    - Civil Penalty Options with Prostitution – Council Policy Initiative
    - Ban on Sex Offenders in Parks
    - Gang Activity and Culturally-Supported Misbehavior
    - Public Comment
  
- **Future Agenda Items**
  - Adult Bookstores
  - Strategies for Strengthening Relations with Court Systems
  - Update on Pursuit Policy Changes
  - Review of Progress 911 PSAP Joint Communications Center (2/08)